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considerable permanent impression on the market of Belfast.

If large farms be not always best tilled, it is not owing to the mere circumstance of their being large. An extensive farmer has it certainly in his power to cultivate in superior style.

An objection to the general cultivation of onions is, the want of a market. In Dublin, Belfast, or other large towns, there may be a good market for a few cultivators; but were the culture to become general, it is plain, that the market would be overstocked, and the farmer disappointed.

Your Correspondent recommends the saving of the onion seed. May I be permitted to inquire how this is to be done. I have known it attempted but the seed never fully ripened; the seed of the Welsh onion may indeed be saved; but I believe that of the Strasburgh does not come to perfection in this country. If there be any method of saving it, I imagine it is not generally known: and therefore if your friend S. T. can communicate it, he will confer a favour not only on me, but on the public. A. Z.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON WAR.

"Styled noble science! in the number rank'd,
Of fair reputed callings, that press round
The door of active life, and court the choice
Of doubtful youth; among the paths that lead
To fame's high fane, among the muses' themes
Placed eminent in front."

FAWCETT'S CIVILIZED WAR.

WAR is an unnatural diseased state of society, and when it once gets deeply seated in the political constitution of a state, like disease in the human body, it gives a wrong direction to all its energies, and by the corruption of its best and most vital parts, endangers the welfare of the entire system. It is the fever of nations, and ranks among its attendant symptoms, *coma, delirium,* &c. and often ends in death. Of its mighty evils, of the miseries and sufferings present and remote, which it brings upon its immediate actors as well as on their innumerable relatives and connections, it is not my design to speak at present. These would fill a volume.

As the powers of the human mind are inadequate to take in a too extensive field of view, it is better in considering an important subject to confine our attention to one or two bearings at a time, that we may not be lost in the immensity of the prospect. At present I design to confine myself to a consideration of the evils which war introduces into private life, even among the classes not professedly military, and especially as the subject is interwoven with the motives which influence the education of youth, and in the adoption of parental plans for the future pursuits in life of their children.

We have now been at war for nearly sixteen years, with the short intermission of a hollow truce. Our habits of thinking and of acting have become military. The plans of many for themselves and their children, have been so formed on a war-system, that much temporary, and in many instances, permanent inconvenience would arise from a return to a peace establishment. This diseased state, was clearly exemplified during the short peace of 1802, when many of our military men had a prospect of returning into private life. What lamentations did we then hear, what inconveniences, real and affected, were then continually repeated! Unhappily for the general interests of mankind, there was but a short time for these complaints to be expressed; the nations again relapsed into the unnatural state of warfare, and individuals returned to reap private emolument from national calamities.

From the sample which we have already seen, we may form some idea of what would take place on a general peace, that would promise durability; and surely we may expect that peace must take place: the ardent philanthropist wishes for its speedy accomplishment, and the cold-blooded politician *calculates* that it must take place, at some period or other. To what eventual inconveniences are parents dooming their chil-

dren, who in their plans for them, act as if they thought *war* would be perpetual? The fact is, the inhabitants of these countries are generally a calculating people; they were growing rich in commerce, and speculative as to the modes of gain; unfortunately they have turned this calculating commercial disposition into forming plans for getting their sons provided for in different lines of military services, not excepting fitting out an additional number as surgeons for the army and navy. Hitherto war has afforded parents an easy mode of relieving themselves from parental cares; "and many sons foredoomed their fathers' souls to cross," have been thus disposed of and sent unfledged into the world, to have their morals further corrupted by a military life; but the speculation may not always succeed. I dread to contemplate on the return of the many dissipated characters, which a peace would bring back into the bosom of families. But here lies the great evil, many are interested in the continuance of war, and lift up their voice against the blessings of peace.

The general good and self-interest pull different ways, and the public weal is disregarded amidst interested clamours, and private motives. I lament over my country, and regret to behold so general a diffusion of a military spirit, and to perceive it to enter so generally into domestic calculations. I forbear at present to say much on the immoral tendency of war, but have principally directed attention to the impolicy of acting on military maxims, as connected with plans for the putting forward our youth into active life. I am sensible my opinions are not popular, and probably they may not be well received. It is likely also they are not in unison, with the sentiments of many immediately connected with your work, but I put in my claim to be heard, for I think it is a privilege due to all who write with modesty, and without unwarrantable assurance. "Even truths most bitter, may be told without bitterness." Indulgence is due to a writer who uses his well intended efforts, to stop an overwhelming torrent, which, in his estimation is in danger of proving destructive to public morals. Such he considers are the present military schemes entertained by persons in private life. And though this manner of treating the subject may thwart many powerful and fashionable prejudices, yet it surely is allowable in a periodical work, which it is hoped may descend with some reputation to posterity, to advance sentiments, which, although now despised, may have due place hereafter, when the temporary infatuation of the present times is forgotten. It should be your aim not to court popularity, at the expense of real usefulness, or future reputation; but by rising above prevailing errors, however wide-spreading, lay a solid foundation for real usefulness: by so acting, a more lasting reputation will be acquired, than by compliances to gain present popularity. K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ESSAY ON BALLAD COMPOSITION, WITH POETICAL EXAMPLES.

THE human mind in its most wild and uncultivated state, where neither an intercourse with well-regulated society could give it polish, nor a knowledge of the finer arts extend its force, has nevertheless been found to possess, in many instances, a delicacy of thought and tenderness of expression, which when exercised upon such external objects as pleased it, or such mental operations as it loved to dwell on, have both interested and surprized the more enlightened classes of mankind. The song of "The Laplander," the dirge of the "American Indian," and the "Simple Chaunt of the African," have been heard with pleasure in Europe, and it is from possessing the same qualities, *simplicity* and *tenderness*, that ancient ballads, a species of poetry invented in an age when learning and taste were scarcely reviving, and composed by men whose untutored muse never felt the plastic impression of education, have been so long and so universally pleasing that several modern writers of considerable merit have composed Ballad pieces, in which thay have imitated the style, the idioms and even the